

WOODSIDE PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN: Mr. J. Cohen 445 6034
SECRETARY: Mr. D. Carr 445 2180

MAY 1993

During the darkest hours of the Second World War, Mr. Churchill - the Prime Minister - wished to convey to the World a strong message that Britain, although seemingly immobile, was, in fact, very active. He quoted Longfellow ..

For while the tired waves, vainly breaking,
Seem here no painful inch to gain,
Far back, through creeks and inlets making,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main.

And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light;
In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly!
But westward look, the land is bright.

During the past few months you will probably have heard little or nothing of the Association's activities. Such great poetry would not be appropriate for our modest endeavours so it will suffice to say that we have not been inactive.

COUNCIL SERVICES

Since our last newsletter, the Council has considerably improved its grass cutting and gardening services. Flowers and trees have been planted in the parks, road sweeping is more frequent and efficient and the response to enquiries is more prompt. We have written to congratulate them on their achievements.

TRAFFIC

When the large Waitrose store opens on the site of Perry's at the top of Alexandra Grove, the amount of traffic along Lullington Garth, particularly, is likely to increase, making it even more difficult for some residents to cross the road and for others to get their cars safely out of their driveways -- especially as the 30 mph limit is often exceeded. If you have any views, or believe that traffic slowing methods should be introduced, let us know.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

There was an all time record of attendance at the Christmas carol singing event at Sussex Ring; almost 100 people attended.

FLOODING

Some of us have houses built on a gradient and may be particularly interested in the experience of a resident whose neighbour - in an adjacent road - built a driveway behind the rear fence of her garden. Water collected and the lower part of her garden became a quagmire into which one could sink up to the ankles and beyond. Attempts to discuss the matter with her neighbour were fruitless as the problem continues. Does anyone know what kind of specialist could find an answer to the problem or what remedy could be tried?

VIEWS

The Association is always interested in the views or concerns of residents and is particularly pleased if anyone is interested in joining the committee.

DOGS

Several residents have mentioned their displeasure at finding dog faeces on the pavement, or even on their front lawns. Usually, the depositors arrive under cover of darkness. Apart from being unpleasant, the substance, if accidentally ingested, can produce worms which can cause various illnesses and affect the organs of the body, including eyes, sometimes resulting in permanent damage.

In answer to the question, 'What can be done?', the Council advise that they will prosecute if the complainant will appear as a witness of the incident. The Council's dog wardens are at 205 2134.

COUNCIL TAX

You should have recently been notified which Council Tax band your property is in and the amount of tax for which you are liable. The Council did not value your property and will not be dealing with appeals -- this is the job of central government. The majority of valuations were established by local estate agents by way of a brief external inspection of the property and from rating records. Because of the limited time available and, in some cases, limited information, it is estimated that as many as 25% to 30% of properties could be wrongly banded and many occupiers could, therefore, find themselves paying more tax - or less - than they should. The majority of properties here are in Band F. There are specific time limits in which to appeal. If you want to know what other properties in your road or area are valued at, you can call at the Council offices to see the lists.

RATS

While walking in her garden a resident found two intruders -- rats. She telephoned the Council and they sent a Rodent Operative who laid poison. He mentioned that the rat population in the area was increasing. The Council's service is free and the number to call is 446 8511 Ext. 4767.

CUSTOMER' COMMENT CARD

The Council has available at libraries a Customer's Comment Card. This is for residents to complete with information about suggested necessary repairs or improvements and covers all services provided by the Council ... pavements, road potholes signs libraries etc. The purpose of the cards is to facilitate a ready means of contacting the council (the cards can be handed in at any library or council office). These cards are also available from the Chairman of this Association.

ASSOCIATION DUES

The collection of the 1992 dues (from those wishing to contribute) for those roads not already covered last year, will be made during the next few weeks.

WOODSIDE PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

This newsletter comes to you with the hope that your Summer is all you wished it might be. If you have been on holiday, then we hope that it was enjoyable. If it is still to come, we hope that it will be enjoyed.

The main item that we have dealt with since the last newsletter has been 'traffic calming' in Lullington Garth. The methods are being tested for one year, after which further measures or amendments will be introduced. The islands, it is generally agreed, have made it easier for residents to cross. The council has asked us to let them have our views. Do you have any opinion. If so, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please drop a note at 48 Walmington Fold, 46 Lullington Garth or 151 Chanctonbury Way.

During the next few weeks, members of our committee will be calling round the Association area to, hopefully, collect £1 subscription from each household. Contributions are needed only for outgoing expenses - postage, stationery, 'phone calls, printing of newsletter, hire of a hall for the AGM, our seasonal Christmas tree and its insurance etc. The association does not make a profit but relies upon your contribution to cover the expenses.

The waste-recycling bins in Lullington Garth are considered, by many residents, to be an eyesore, creating a great deal of litter, spoiling the cross-country panorama from that spot. We have been in touch with the Council about this and their response, while sympathetic, emphasised the greater importance of reclamation. Further suggestions are being considered.

So often, we are asked, when problems arise, "Why don't 'they' do something about it?" It has been suggested that 'we' can be 'they' and if, for instance, we see a piece of litter near our frontage, that we pick it up and place it in a dustbin. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that so much litter is deposited behind the 'bus shelter at Sussex Ring. We have been in touch with 'them' and have received a promise that the area will be cleared regularly.

Whilst appreciating the value of burglar alarms, they often sound when there has been no intrusion in either house or car, creating a disturbance over a wide area. May we, therefore, ask you - if you have an alarm, to keep it checked for sensitivity so that it doesn't set off in a high wind or some other inadvertency?

Linkside has been completely repaved with tarmac sections between the kerb and the paving where cars are likely to park; the view has been expressed that this is a paradox as pavement parking is illegal. Linkside may be an exception to the rule, being such a narrow road with accessibility being restricted when cars are parked opposite each other.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place this year on Wednesday, 20th September at 8 pm at the Woodside Park Club in Southover. This is a new venue for us and we hope that you will make every effort to be present. Please come.

The Woodside Park Club has been established for many years and is in need of a fuller membership. It offers a wide range of facilities in the way of indoor and outdoor sports and general interests; included are - bowls table tennis, football, cricket, tennis, bridge, snooker, dramatics and darts. There is a licenced bar and a play area for children. If you are interested, a call to the steward on 0181 445 3510 will enable you to obtain further information.

We have been represented at meetings at which the future of the former Friern Hospital has been discussed. It seems that, regardless of objections and petitions against it, Friern Park Ltd. will go ahead with their plans for further warehouse outlets. This is likely to have a further effect upon the shops at North Finchley.

We are still in need of a Minute Secretary. Your services, if you can assist, would be greatly appreciated.

We trust that you find our newsletters interesting. If you do, we are pleased. If you don't, then please let us know the reason why.

It is with much sadness and regret we have to announce the passing of two greatly respected former officers of the Association, Mr Victor Bonafont and Mr Stanley Holdershaw. Both served on the committee over a number of years in the sixties and seventies and Vic was for a time our Chairman.

They were still in residence on the estate at the time of their deaths and we send to their widows and families our sincere commiserations and thanks for their past efforts on the Associations behalf.

Subscriptions: As an alternative, members can complete the form below and deliver it in an envelope to one of the addresses shown in this newsletter. A receipt will follow.

.....

I/we enclose the annual subscription to the funds of The Woodside Park Residents' Association.

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

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NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN: Mr. J. Cohen 445 6034
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AUTUMN 1993

Since our last newsletter was distributed some months ago, things in Woodside Park have, thankfully, been - compared with the past - quite quiet. We have received few grouses and grumbles and, yes, even one or two compliments. When your committee have considered matters to be relevant, efforts have been made to pursue them to a satisfactory conclusion. Our contacts with Barnet Council have been conciliatory in most cases - but not all.

We sincerely hope that matters will remain this way but they will do so only if we hear your opinions on the state of the area. We can act for you only when we know what there is to act upon. We try our best to produce results - even miracles.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Frith Manor School on
October 5th. We hope that you will attend. Please try to be there.
7.30 PM

NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

Every year, just before the AGM we ask for nominations to join the committee -- usually without response. If you can spare just two hours every six weeks and would like to join, please telephone.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Woodside Park Residents' Association is a non profit making organisation. Its purpose is to disseminate news and views around our district. We watch what is going on and taking place, we listen to your complaints and, where necessary, take up these matters with our Council. We are in regular communication with the Council, the Police and transport organisations. We hold regular committee meetings every six weeks and an Annual General Meeting. We also attend Council and other organisation's committee meetings when necessary.

All of this costs money - not a lot - but some; to pay, for instance, for the postage and printing, for the hire of a hall for the AGM and for our Christmas celebration when an illuminated tree is planted at Sussex Ring and residents join in carol singing.

We ask, therefore, for an annual donation of £1 from each household in the area. To collect this is time consuming and, in order to obviate this, we ask you, please - next Spring - when the newsletter is delivered, to put the subscription in the envelope provided and to drop it into the letter box of one of the addresses listed. A receipt will be delivered. We thank you for your past support and hope that it will be maintained.

TRAFFIC

In a recent newsletter we mentioned that Lullington Garth/Frith Lane has been designated the most dangerous stretch of road in the Borough. The amount of traffic is likely to increase. Residents living there, and in the side roads have difficulty in driving into the main road, especially at busy times. The Police occasionally check speeds and charge drivers; some of us are among the offenders. The Chairman and Secretary met with Councillor Joan Levinson to discuss what measures were available to restrict the speed of vehicles. Councillor Levinson had already proposed measures but these required approval by the Public Works Committee and endorsement from the finance department. Unfortunately, other pressing demands took precedence and it was not possible to implement them. She will now renew the application and we have been asked to submit suggestions. Councillor Levinson also advised us of the Ward Initiative Scheme which can approve the placing of 'Observe the 30 mph limit' signs along the road. Please let us have your views and ideas.

FOOTPATHS

We have had reports that the footpath from Lullington Garth to Burtonhole Lane has been blocked or diverted. We have written to the Council for a copy of the local footpath map showing the courses and will investigate when this is received. If you have any views or knowledge of the matter please let us know.

SEATS AT RIVERSIDE WALK

The seats at Riverside Walk were vandalised early this year. They have now been repaired or replaced with those of a non wooden type.

DOGS

Like the local council we receive more letters and telephone calls about dogs than any other subject. We have recently had several approaches about the exercise of dogs in Riverside Walk. Eight of these expressed concern about fouling and the resultant health hazard for children and one letter condemned the new Bye Law and considered it to be a restriction of freedom.

The Bye Laws offered to councils by the Home Office were introduced following tremendous public pressure after increasing recognition by the medical profession of the danger of toxocarasis and the increase in the number of attacks by dangerous dogs.

Responsible dog owners and dog organisations appear to be willing to use different parts of some parks from those used by others, which is the aim of the bye laws.

We have been asked by a group of mothers to suggest that dog owners voluntarily keep their dogs away from the children's play area in Riverside Walk.

WOODSIDE PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 1993

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is with very great regret that we have to announce the death of Mrs. Dorothy Corbett. Dorothy, or 'Dot', as she was known to all of us was a woman of sterling character and principles. Though having suffered a great deal physically during her life, she nevertheless always found time to assist others. She and her husband Jack had devoted upwards of forty years between them to this Association. She had at one time undertaken work for the Samaritans and she was a founder member of the Finchley branch of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund; at the time of her death she was the President. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her and who received inspiration from working with her.

Since our last newsletter much has been happening. Our prime concern has been with traffic along Lullington Garth, particularly its speed and frequency. Shortage of funds preclude introduction by the Council of further roundabouts or 'choking' of the road. However, we have discussed the matter with Councillor Joan Levinson and with Mr. Collyer, the Council's Senior Traffic Engineer and a speed limit reminder campaign has been agreed in principle.

We have also explored the public footpath from Lullington Garth to Partingdale Lane following a report that it had been blocked. There is a stile which gives access but it is about 20 metres off the footpath's course -- the Council consider that this is acceptable.

Lighting on Brookside Walk at Holden Road footbridge has now been restored following an approach by the Association.

We have had complaints about refuse lorries hurtling along Lullington Garth early in the mornings at great speed, creating noise and shaking the foundations of some houses. We are trying to rectify the matter.

Generally, no great grumbles come our way but we never know what is going to happen tomorrow. We rely upon you to keep us informed of anything untoward that you may see, working of course, together with the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

If you attended last year you will remember the successful Carol singing event we held at Sussex Ring. It was attended by at least 100 residents even though it was raining. The singing was led by Mrs. Landucci and accompanied by Mr. Ashton Painter at the organ. Mrs. Lucille Kelly (now Mrs. Crook) provided ample seasonal refreshments for both adults and children. This year we are going to repeat the event and we hope that you will again join us. The Christmas tree will be erected on December 18th and illuminated by the courtesy of Blakes, the cleaners. Carol singing will be on December 18th at 4.30 pm and we look forward to a choral afternoon. Please come.

Notice is hereby given that the Council of the London Borough of Barnet intend, after the expiry of one calendar month from the date of this Notice, to apply to the Secretary of State for confirmation of the following byelaws made by the Council.

Dogs on Leads Byelaws and Exercise Areas

No person in charge of a dog (other than a registered blind person) shall, without reasonable excuse, permit a dog to enter or remain in the dogs on leads areas unless the dog is held on a lead and is restricted from behaviour giving reasonable grounds for annoyance.

The byelaws will apply to the following parks:

Riverside Walk, north and south (parts) (other than exercise areas)

Any person offending the above byelaws may be removed from the park or open space and may be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale (£500).

* STOP PRESS

-2-

* DOG MESS (from a dog-owner resident)

Your editor has asked me to write an article about dog mess. What a subject! It is dreadful stuff and it raises more anger and ill will because of its all pervading presence than it really ought. In my view things would be improved by tolerance and action. The tolerance can only be asked for from the non dog owners; that is asking a lot, so why is it needed? Dogs, despite what some owners think, are not human and even the best trained have 'accidents' at times. That does not excuse those that do not bother with proper training but please be tolerant with those owners that do. Action must come from owners. A pooperscoop in a plastic bag means that the offending mess can be cleared in seconds. The cost in time and money is minimal and the benefit for the area both in cleanliness and goodwill incalculable. I know it is easy and it works because I do it, so owners please join me.

BJM.

ROADS RESURFACING

In case you have not seen the notice in the local newspaper -- Walmington Fold and two of the closes leading from it are to be resurfaced next January.

BADMINTON FOR CHILDREN

Badminton sessions for children are held at the Union Church in Southover from 6 pm to 8 pm.

FOR SALE

Three-bedroomed houses in Woodside Park Garden Suburb, luxuriously fitted throughout. All the rooms are spacious and from the back reception room the casement doors lead out to the garden. Bathroom and kitchen are attractively tiled and the linen cupboard and towel rails are heated by the constant hot-water system. The average price under £1,000, deposit of £100, mortgage per annum £67.37½. Rates (as they were) £16.80 per annum and water rates £2.77½ per annum. No, don't rush to the nearest estate agent. That is how things were when Woodside Park Garden Suburb was when it was built in the early thirties. There were seventeen churches within walking distance, three golf clubs locally and seven cinemas for entertainment. Believe it or not, there were forty-five schools in the area in and around Woodside Park. Gas was 20p per 1,000 cubic foot and rates 47p in the pound!

KNOCK, KNOCK - WHO'S THERE?

This is the season of the 'knockers' as well as the season of good-will. Lest you be confused as to what a 'knocker' is, he or they, are the strangers knocking at your door anxious to sell, enquire, beg, cajole and so on, usually for the purpose of parting you from your money. Most of us have heard the tale of the pet bird or hamster that has escaped into a garden. Whilst searching with him in the garden your house is being ransacked by his accomplice. A later variation brought to our notice was the 'knocker' employed to re-lay crazy paving. "H'm", he said, "about a hundred and twenty". The bill, however, was £500. The 120 was the 'measurement'. Be warned.

W.H